(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item "Rs. 2100 crore tax evasion by MNCs" which appeared in the Asian Age, dated the 23rd May, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) The news item is a coverage of the reply given by the Ministry to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 671 answered on 12.5.2000, regarding tax evasion by MNCs. The reply also indicated the action taken by the Government against such MNCs.

Restriction on local calls of Government officials

1786. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of local calls reimburseable to officials on Government telephones provided at their residences and since when the present limit is in force;

(b) whether any limit in this behalf exist in case of officials who have been officially provided computer and internet facility at their residences; and

(c) whether Government propose to reveiw the matter and issues fresh guidelines in view of above developments as well as restrictions of local calls to three-minutes duration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Officials eligible for residential telephones are entitled to 650 free local calls on bi-monthly basis (excluding STD calls made for official purpose and so certified by the officer concerned) since 1982 on Government expenses in addition to 150 free calls allowed by MTNL/ Telecom Department.

(b) Officials are not entitled to any additional free calls on account of provision of computers and internet facility at their residences.

(c) No, Sir.

Payment of exhorbitant rents by Central Excise Department, Mumbai

1787. SHRI K. M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: